II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A modular method for the tracing of a multimedia message through a telecommunications network comprising a relay server of multimedia messages, a multimedia message comprising a recipient field and a subject field wherein:

the multimedia message is produced automatically -by a multimedia message generation module;

the generation module inserts information on the automatically produced multimedia message in the subject field of the multimedia message,

the multimedia message produced is sent through the telecommunications network,

the multimedia message produced and sent is received by the relay server,

the relay produces and transmits a first message of notification of reception of the multimedia message to a recipient identified by the recipient field, the first notification message comprising a subject field whose contents comprise at least the information on the subject field of the multimedia message. wherein:

an interception module intercepts a notification message sent by the relay server following the reception of the multimedia message, and determines which is the recipient of the first notification message and, as a function of the recipient, behaves transparently in the telecommunications

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network or sends a second notification message addressed to a multimedia message retrieval module, the second notification message comprising at least one subject field whose contents enable the identification of the multimedia message corresponding to the first message,

the retrieval module produces a retrieval request to retrieve the multimedia message corresponding to the second notification message, and the retrieval module sends the retrieval request to the relay server and processes the response of the relay server,

the generation module sends to an analysis module first pieces of information on the multimedia messages sent by the generation module,

the retrieval module sends to the analysis module second pieces of information on retrieved multimedia messages, and

the first and second pieces of information are of the same nature.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia message is an MMS message.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first notification message is a short message.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the retrieval request is sent by using the WAP protocol.

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7.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject field of the multimedia message comprises a piece of information on date.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~different~~ modules are synchronized.

9.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject field of the automatically produced multimedia message comprises a piece of checksum information corresponding to a body of the automatically produced multimedia message.

10.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject field of the automatically produced multimedia message comprises a piece of information for the identification of the automatically produced multimedia message.

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject filed of the automatically produced multimedia message comprises an instruction code to define the behavior of the retrieval module.

12.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the interception module processes the data sent by the relay server.

13.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the interception module processes the data sent by an SMS-C of the telecommunications network.

14.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia message comprises a body whose contents are variable in size and/or in nature.

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15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module sends multimedia messages at a given frequency.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module sends multimedia messages during a given period.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module sends multimedia messages through different protocols.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the notification messages comprise information for the identification of the multimedia message received by the relay server to which they correspond.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module is an intermediary between a server of a service provider and the relay server, the generation module then modifying the subject fields of the multimedia messages intercepted by it.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module is parametrized through a scenario file.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the generation module and/or the retrieval module have a multiprocess software architecture.

22. (Currently Amended) A modular device ~~modular device~~ for the tracing of a multimedia message through a telecommunications

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network comprising a multimedia message relay server, a multimedia message comprising a recipient field and a subject field, wherein the modular tracing device comprises:

a generation module for the automatic production of a message,

the generation module comprises means for the insertion, in the subject field of the multimedia message, of information on the automatically produced multimedia message,

the generation module comprises means to send the multimedia message produced through the telecommunications network,

the relay server comprises means for the production and the transmission, to an identified recipient, of a first message of notification of reception of the multimedia message, the first notification message comprising a subject field whose contents comprise at least information of the subject field of the multimedia message,

an interception module comprising means to intercept the first notification message, determine which is the recipient of the first notification message and, depending on the recipient, to behave transparently in the telecommunications network or send a second notification message to a multimedia message retrieval module, the second notification message comprising at least one subject field whose contents enable the identification of the multimedia message corresponding to the first notification message, and

the retrieval module comprises means to produce a retrieval request to retrieve the multimedia message corresponding to the second notification message, the retrieval module comprising also means to send the retrieval request to the relay server and process the response of the relay server.

23. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 22,
wherein:

the generation module comprises means to send an analysis
module first pieces of information on the multimedia
messages sent by the generation module,

the retrieval module comprises means to send the analysis
module second pieces of information on retrieved multimedia
messages, and

the first and second pieces of information are of the same
nature.